implementing agencies in different States are not kept at Government of India level.

Wages paid to labourers under PMGSY

†2347. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the wages paid to the labourers working on roads being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) whether these wages are uniform in all the States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Rural roads is a State subject and funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are released to State Government agencies for construction of rural roads. Contracts for construction are entered into by State Government agencies. The Standard Bidding Document prescribed under the PMGSY provides that the contractor is to pay not less than the minimum wages as per the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Act empowers the State Governments to fix the minimum wages. There is no requirement that the wages sould be uniform in all the States.

New parameter to **define BPL**

2348. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to redefine the Below Poverty Line (BPL) in terms of parameters of land, housing, clothing, education, health and sanitation besides the earlier parameters, *i.e.* level of calories consumption; and

(b) if so, the details of proposed new parameters to redefine BPL people in urban and rural areas, separately?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The official estimation of poverty is done by the Planning Commission, based on the Quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). The official poverty line is anchored on the per capita monthly expenditure corresponding to per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined in this way covers not only the expenditure on food but also on non-food items such as clothing, housing, health and education and social services. The Government are not contemplating to redefine the poverty line so far as the Ministry of Rural Development is concerned.

Rural Housing Innovative Project of Chhattisgarh

† 2349. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has sent rural housing innovative project for approval to the Government of India for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action so far taken; and

(c) by when approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry received proposal from Zila Panchayat (ZP), Durg and ZP, Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh in the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively under the Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development The proposal of ZP, Durg has been rejected as no innovative technology was proposed. The proposal of ZP Mahasamund cannot be considered as the scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1.4.2004.

Swarnjayanti Swarozgar Yojana

2350. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing a scheme called "Swarnjayanti Swarozgar Yojana' for increasing the agricultural

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.